

CLAIMS

1. A safety device comprising:

5 a portable computer having a housing that can be opened for accessing the computer and closed for transporting the computer; and,

at least one light-emitting device positioned on the housing and configured to emit light of sufficient magnitude to be perceived by others when the housing is closed and the computer is carried by an individual.

10 2. The safety device of claim 1, wherein the housing when closed has a top surface and a bottom surface and side surfaces at least portions of which extend generally perpendicularly therebetween and at least one light-emitting device on at least one of said surfaces.

15 3. The safety device of claim 2, wherein the at least one light emitting device comprises multiple light emitting devices positioned on multiple surfaces of the computer housing.

20 4. The safety device of claim 3, wherein the multiple light emitting devices are positioned on all surfaces of the computer housing.

5. The safety device of claim 3, wherein the multiple light emitting devices are configured to blink in a predefined pattern.

25 6. The safety device of claim 1, wherein the at least one light emitting device comprises at least one LED.

7. The safety device of claim 1, wherein the at least one light emitting device comprises at least one incandescent light.

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8. A safety device comprising:

a portable computer having a housing that can be opened for accessing the computer and closed for transporting the computer;

5 at least one light emitting device positioned on the housing and configured to emit light of sufficient magnitude to be perceived by others when the housing is closed and the computer is carried; and

a controller coupled with the at least one light emitting device to selectively enable or disable the at least one light emitting device.

10 9. The safety device of claim 8, wherein the controller comprises a user-activatable switch.

10. The safety device of claim 9, wherein the user-activatable switch comprises a user-activatable timer switch.

15 11. The safety device of claim 8, wherein the controller comprises a motion sensor switch.

20 12. The safety device of claim 8, wherein the controller comprises a light sensor switch.

13. The safety device of claim 8, wherein the controller comprises a motion sensor switch and a light sensor switch.

25 14. The safety device of claim 8, wherein the at least one light emitting device comprises at least one LED.

15. The safety device of claim 8, wherein the housing has at least one reflective surface.

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16. The safety device of claim 15, wherein the at least one reflective surface comprises a specular reflective surface.

17. A portable computer comprising:

a housing;

a power source supported by the housing; and,

5 at least one light emitting device connected to the power source and configured to emit light responsive to the computer being carried.

18. The portable computer as claimed in claim 17, further comprising at least one reflective structure positioned on the housing.

10 19. The portable computer as claimed in claim 17, wherein the at least one light emitting device comprises multiple light emitting devices positioned on the housing so that at least some of them are visible when the computer is carried by a user.

15 20. The portable computer as claimed in claim 19, wherein the multiple light emitting devices are positioned on the housing so that some of the multiple light emitting devices are visible from multiple directions relative to a user when the computer is carried by the user.

20 21. The computer as claimed in claim 19, wherein the multiple light emitting devices are positioned on the housing so that light emitting devices are visible from a front position, a rear position, and at least one side position relative to a user when the computer is carried by the user.

25 22. The electronic safety device as claimed in claim 19, wherein the multiple light emitting devices are configured to blink in a predefined pattern.

23. A portable computer comprising:

a housing; and,

at least one light reflecting safety structure attached to the housing and positioned to reflect light in a manner that promotes the safety of an individual carrying the computer by making the individual more visible to others in the individual's proximity than the individual otherwise would be without the at least one light reflecting safety structure attached to the housing.

24. The portable computer safety structure of claim 23, wherein the at least one light reflecting safety structure comprises at least one specular reflector.

25. The portable computer safety structure of claim 23, wherein the at least one light reflecting safety structure comprises multiple discrete reflective structures arranged in a pattern.

26. A portable computer comprising:

a housing; and,

at least one light reflecting surface adhered to the housing and positioned to reflect light in a manner that promotes the safety of an individual carrying the computer by making the individual more visible to others in the individual's proximity than the individual otherwise would be without the at least one light reflecting safety structure adhered to the housing.

27. The portable computer of claim 26, wherein the at least one light reflecting surface has a high degree of specularity.

28. A method for protecting a person who transports a portable computer comprising:

providing a portable computer having a housing; and,

affixing at least one reflective structure to the housing, the reflective structure being positioned to reflect light so that the light can be seen by others when the computer is carried.

29. The method of claim 28, wherein affixing at least one reflective structure comprises affixing at least one specular reflective structure.

5 30. A method for protecting a person who transports a portable computer comprising:

providing a portable computer having a housing; and,

adhering at least one reflective surface to the housing, the surface being positioned to reflect light so that the light can be seen by others when the computer is carried.

10 31. The method of claim 30, wherein adhering at least one reflective surface comprises adhering at least one reflective surface which has a high degree of specularity.

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